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# Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 DAKAR 05473 190937Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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O 190913Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4977
INFO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS

S E C R E T DAKAR 5473

EXDIS

CAT DELEGATION FOR MARTIN CHESHES

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PCAT, PARM, US, XA, UR, SG
SUBJECT: US-SOVIET CONVENTIONAL ARMS TALKS: AFRICA

REF: STATE 178349

1. SUMMARY: CHARGE, ACCOMPANIED BY POLITICAL OFFICER, RAISED POINTS REFTEL WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY (BALLA DIA, UN AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS). EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR CONSULATION, DIA SAID THAT WHILE THERE
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IS NO OFFICIAL GOS POSITION ON AFRICAN REGIONAL LIMITATION ON CONVENTIONAL ARMS, SUCH AN APPROACH WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH GENERAL THRUST OF PAST GOVERNMENT POLICY AND WOULD BE MOST PROMISING AVENUE FOR ARMS LIMITATION. HE COULD NOT SAY AT THIS TIME WHETHER SENEGAL WOULD TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN SEEKING SUCH AN ARMS LIMITATION TREATY AMONG AFRICAN STATES.

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2. BALLA DIA POINTED OUT THAT PRESIDENT SENGHOR HAS INSISTED ON MAINTAINING STRONG ARMED FORCES TO DEFEND SENEGALESE BORDERS, PARTICULARLY BECAUSE OF CONCERN WITH POLISARIO PROBLEM IN MAURITANIA. THE GOS MAINTAINS ITS LEVEL OF ARMS WITH A CLOSE EYE TOWARD THE REGIONAL BALANCE AND INCREASES ITS SPENDING ONLY AS A REACTION TO COUNTERACTION OF ITS NEIGHBORS, PARTICULARLY ANY SOVIET ARMS TRANSFERS TO REGION. THUS A REGIONAL TREATY WOULD BE THE REALISTIC WAY TO LIMIT ARMAMENTS. DIA POINTED OUT THAT PRESIDENT SENGHOR'S RECENT SPEECH AT THE JUNE UN DISARMAMENT SESSION HAD CRITICIZED EXCESSIVE ARMS EXPENDITURES BY THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES WHICH DIVERT RESOURCES FROM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT SENGHOR'S MESSAGE TO THE AMERICANS DURING HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON LAST MONTH HAD BEEN, "WE WANT TO DEFEND OUR-SELVES BUT WE ALSO NEED MATERIAL HELP FROM THE U.S."

3. COMMENT: THIS IS AN IMPORTANT AND COMPLEX SUBJECT, WHICH SENEGALESE, LIKE MOST OTHER AFRICANS, WANT TO EXAMINE AND DISCUSS WITH GREAT CARE BEFORE THEY MAKE ANY MOVES. WE THEREFORE QUESTION THE REALISM OF AN INSTRUCTION WHICH GIVES US BARELY TWO WORKING DAYS IN WHICH TO INFORM THE HOST GOVERNMENT AND TO SEEK AN ENDORSEMENT OF A CONCEPT WHICH STANDS SORELY IN NEED OF ELABORATION AND DEFINITION.

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# Message Attributes

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**Concepts:** ARMS, NEGOTIATIONS
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**Copy:** SINGLE
**Draft Date:** 19 jul 1978
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED
**Disposition Approved on Date:**
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014
**Disposition Event:**
**Disposition History:** n/a
**Disposition Reason:**
**Disposition Remarks:**
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**Enclosure:** n/a
**Executive Order:** GS
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**Type:** TE
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**Review Markings:**
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Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
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**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014